GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4083
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2007
GILGIT MANUSCRIPTS OF J & K
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Gilgit manuscript of Jammu and Kashmir has been nominated for inclusion in UNESCO`s World Register, 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether any other Indian manuscript has already been included in the UNESCO`s World Register; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINIS` R OF TOURISM & CULTURE(SMT. AMBIKASONI)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. A dossier on Gilgit manuscript of Jammu & Kashmir has been submitted to UNESCO for inclusion of these manuscripts in the UNESCO`s World Register, 2006-07. Gilgit Manuscripts, dating between 5th and 6th Century, AD, are the oldest manuscripts available in India. These manuscripts were discovered by shepherds from Gilgit area near Kashmir and are a collection of narratives and poems dealing mainly with Budhism. A major part of this manuscript corpus is in the National Archives of India and the rest is in the State Archives in Jammu & Kashmir.

(c)& (d) Other Indian manuscripts in the UNESCO`s World Register are the Tamil Medical Manuscripts` from the Institute of Asian Studies, Tamil Nadu and the `Saiva Manuscripts` from Pondicherry.